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DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Anne V. Dougherty on September 15, 2008.

Please amend as follows:

Claim 6 (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for managing locations of mobile agents by using a plurality of agent servers and a registration server for maintaining locations of mobile agents comprising the steps of:

[[an]] at each of said agent servers[[:]];:

maintaining a history of movement of each of said mobile agents including accumulating a count of the number of movements for each of said mobile agents; and

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periodically generating requests for updating and deleting registries, said requests including at least a mobile agent identifier and said count of the accumulated number of movements for said mobile agent; and

at said registration server[[,]]:

renewing location information of each of said mobile agents kept by said registration server with said requests wherein said registration server comprises at least one register for maintaining accumulated number of movements and locations of each of said mobile agents in an associated manner and further comprising said registration server renewing said location information of each of said mobile agents only upon receipt of requests for updating location information associated with a higher accumulated number of movements.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1 and 6 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. The amended claims feature a mobile agent management apparatus, including a plurality of agent servers and a registration server that keeps location information of mobile agents. Each of the agent servers comprises means for maintaining a history of movement of each of the mobile agents, which includes a counter that counts the accumulated number of movements for each of the mobile units. The agent servers also include request means for periodically generating requests for updating location information of each of the agents, to renew location information at the registration server, where the requests include a mobile agent identifier and an accumulated

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number of movements for the mobile agent. The registration server includes at least one register for maintaining the accumulated number of movements and locations of each of the mobile agents and renews the location information of the mobile agents only if the requests (from the agent servers) for updating information is associated with a higher number of movements.

Because there exist both agent servers and a registration server keeping track of a number of mobile agent movements, and because requests to update are sent periodically, and updating is conducted only if the accumulated number is higher, it is believed that the claimed invention is novel. The examiner was unable to procure prior teachings of such features as claimed, and could not render said features obvious without the use of impermissible hindsight constructions.

Further, the discussion in the remarks filed on August 11, 2008, where the registration server “renews the location information only upon receipt of location update requests that have a higher accumulated number of movements than was previously found in the register,” and is “based on comparing the accumulated number of movements in an update request to a stored accumulated number of movements for the mobile agent and updating the location information only when the accumulated number of movements in the update request exceeds the stored accumulated number of movements,” further distinguishes the claimed teachings from the prior art, and was considered in assessing allowability. As such, the Applicant's remarks are persuasive in that the cited prior art does not teach or suggest the newly claimed features. It is therefore the examiner's belief that the claimed invention does indeed possess novelty.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

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fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tanim Hossain whose telephone number is 571/272-3881. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am - 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Cardone can be reached on 571/272-3933. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Tanim Hossain
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2145

/Jason D Cardone/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2145